THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten that the Lord is able to do all things according to his will, for the children of men, if it so be that they exercise faith in him? Wherefore, let us be faithful to him." BOOK OF MORMON, 1 NEPHI 7: 12.

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RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES—THE GOSPEL REMEDY*

ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

IT IS exceedingly gratifying to those who have responsibility for the conduct of this great latter-day work to witness the large attendance at this conference, this large Tabernacle being filled to overflowing, as well as the Assembly Hall, and great crowds of people on the grounds, perhaps thousands. And this, notwithstanding the fact that a great many people in their homes to-day are hearing the proceedings of the conference through their radio sets.

I have been edified and built up by what I have felt and heard during the sessions of this conference. My heart has been made to rejoice exceedingly. Every speaker has spoken upon some one or more phases of the Gospel, and the Gospel is given us that we may know what salvation is and how we may attain that boon and blessing. There is no other question of such great importance to mankind as that of salvation—of what it consists and how it may be attained. There is no other question that has engaged the attention of so many people as that of salvation, and perhaps there is no other question upon which there has been such a diversion of views and opinions. As I understand it, this is the cause of there being so many religious sects, creeds and denominations upon the earth to-day, and this fact is strange when we think that all these religionists have based their views and established

*Address delivered at the fifth session of the Ninety-eighth Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., October 9th, 1927.

their creeds and denominations upon a belief in the Bible and its doctrines.

It seems to call for an answer to the question: Why is it so? And I am reminded of the saying in the scriptures that prophecy came not in olden times by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. The contents of the Old and New Testaments, then, are the things of God given to the children of men by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. The trouble with men to-day, and the cause of this spiritual darkness that is found everywhere throughout Christendom, is that men lack that Spirit, the power of the Holy Ghost, that was enjoyed by the prophets who wrote and spoke the things contained in that sacred book, the Bible. If we had the same Spirit, the same measure of that Spirit, we would understand as they understood, and we would all understand alike.

FAITH—REPENTANCE—BAPTISM

Why do we not get the Holy Spirit, the measure necessary to understand these things aright? The answer is that we have not taken the course that is indicated by the Gospel, by the scriptures, to obtain it. A man must be born again in order to even see the kingdom of God. He must be born of water and of the Spirit to receive the Holy Ghost in the measure in which it was enjoyed by the prophets who gave us the word of the Lord contained in the holy scriptures. We must be born again, first of the water and then of the Spirit, but before we can receive these ordinances and these great blessings our faith in God must be such as will be approved of Him, such as will lead us to do the things that He would have us do, as fast as they are made known unto us. We must have that faith that will lead us to forsake evil and wrongdoing of every kind, to repent of our sins, to right the wrongs which we have done, as far as it lies in our power, and to forgive our fellow-men who have trespassed against us, even as we desire to be forgiven. Then when we receive the ordinance of baptism by immersion by one having authority, and have hands laid upon our heads for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost and confirmation to membership in the Church of Christ, our sins are washed away; the Holy Spirit comes upon us, even the Holy Ghost, whose office it is and whose mission it is to bear witness of the Father and of the Son, and of the truth of all things.

FOR THE SALVATION OF MEN

Our mission as Latter-day Saints to the world is to make plain the way of life and salvation. With us what salvation is and how it may be obtained is no longer a question. That question has been solved. We know the way. God our Father, because of His love for us, desires above all other things that we shall have salvation in His kingdom, exaltation where He and His Son

Jesus Christ dwell; and that we may have salvation, He has made the provisions of the Gospel, including the atonement wrought out by His Son Jesus Christ. He has also given us the organization of the Church. One might ask: Why all this religious activity in the Church, and all that we see in the auxiliary organizations? It is necessary; the salvation of man depends upon it. These children of Zion are to have their faith established, and they are to become so educated in the work that they in turn may be able to take responsibility, and labour for the accomplishment of God's purposes. Why all this effort and this expenditure of means in the preaching of this Gospel, as it is done by the Latter-day Saints? The answer is that the salvation of man depends upon it. Why the building of Temples, and the work that is accomplished therein at such tremendous effort and expense? The salvation of man depends upon it, and the salvation of man is the end in view that our Father in heaven has. All His works of which we have any account are but a means to that end, and it is because He loves us. The sacrifice made by the Saviour—for He gave Himself willingly as such—is the result of love for us, because we are the children of His Father, because we are His brothers and His sisters. What a glorious truth! what a glorious principle! that we are born sons and daughters of God. That is why He loves us with a perfect love, because we are His sons and daughters. We ought to love Him with all our hearts, with all our minds, and with all our souls, and serve Him and keep His commandments, seeking to know His will concerning us and doing it at all hazards.

CHOSEN AND INSPIRED LEADERS

Brethren and sisters, I know that this is the work of the Lord. I rejoice in the light that has come to us through the everlasting Gospel. I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. I am not afraid to bear this testimony. I never have been. It is my responsibility, and it gives me the greatest of pleasure to have the opportunity to testify of these great facts. I know just as well that Brigham Young, who succeeded the Prophet Joseph Smith in presiding over this Church, was inspired of God, that he held the place the Lord prepared for him, and that his work was acceptable unto the Lord. And this I know of each of the succeeding Presidents of this Church. They were the mouthpieces of God unto this people, inspired of the Lord for their work, and the work has grown and prospered; and to-day he who stands at the head is an inspired man of God. We know him because he is mortal, and we see that which is mortal of him perhaps more apparent than that which is divine, but we who have association with him so closely bear witness to you as Latter-day Saints, and to all the world, that Heber J. Grant has uppermost in his heart the desire to know what the will of our Father

is concerning this great latter-day work and this people, and to do the thing that our Father would have him do. He is inspired, has been and ever will be, and under his administration this work will go on and prosper. I know that this work will triumph, that it is our Father's work, that He is at the helm. Men cannot accomplish this. There is nothing that we can do without His help, but with His help His purposes will be accomplished and His name will be glorified in the earth. I bear this testimony to you, brethren and sisters and friends, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SPIRIT AND BODY AND THE WORD OF WISDOM*

ELDER STEPHEN L. RICHARDS
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

I KNOW of nothing wiser than the Word of Wisdom. I regard this great message from the Lord as being one of the most distinctive and one of the most vital contributions coming to the world through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Like all great messages and documents it connotes even more than it denotes. It is given in sufficient detail to obviate all ambiguity, and at the same time it is sufficiently general to have application to many phases of life and to all of those items which enter into clean living. It proceeds upon the assumption that the greatest thing in life is living, and that the most indispensable thing to good living is health—bodily, mental and spiritual.

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

We cannot contemplate a good man who does not have respect for the sacred institution of his body. God has given us in this dispensation a new conception of the body of man. It is something more than earth and the elements of earth. We believe that the spirit is the literal child of God; that it comes to earth in divine providence to take on mortality; that while here it is housed in a tabernacle; that that tabernacle itself is made through the beneficent provision of the Creator in His own likeness. In that conception no one may defile the tabernacle wherein dwells the spirit without offering affront to God who gave it. He cannot pollute his body with poisonous or disintegrating substances without committing an offense against his God and his Creator.

The Word of Wisdom has come to us in what seems to me the most excellent, the most pleasing manner possible to give a

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message. It came by way of greeting to the Saints, not by way of constraint—so it states—in which respect it has seemed to me to be comparable to the greatest messages which came from the Redeemer of the world when in the flesh He spoke to mankind. It rings with the same spirit as do the Beatitudes, wherein the Christ said, not by way of constraint, not in the thunder of commandment, but in that lovely spirit which characterized His ministry: "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." So He gave to us this fundamental message of life and health and strength and purity, as a principle with a promise.

Is it less binding upon us; does it constrain us the less because the Lord has said that it is pleasing unto Him that we should do the things here enumerated and avoid the things here enjoined?

SPIRIT AND BODY

Within it comes to me the very genius of the philosophy of the Gospel. Where is the man impure in body and defiled, within whom may dwell the Spirit of the Most High? Is there not the closest of relation between the condition of our tabernacles and the spirits which therein reside? I take it that one of our supreme messages to the whole world is the word which comes from this transcendent statement of the fundamentals of our very faith: Keep clean your bodies and undefiled, in order that you may serve God and work out your destiny in mortality.

We have heard considerable during this conference relative to the disorders of society and the great iniquity which prevails in the land. If it were possible to make a survey of all those who have been guilty of infraction of the law, and who have perpetrated crimes against society, we should not find that the perpetrators of these offenses were men and women who have had sacred regard for the tabernacle of their spirits and kept clean their bodies which God gave to them.

The most serious, the direst consequences which follow an infraction of the Word of Wisdom, in my judgment, are spiritual, rather than physical; for, while the body may be impaired, the spirit suffers most. When the boy begins to smoke he usually ceases to pray, and when he ceases to pray he loses contact not only with our Father in heaven and His uplifting influence, but he often becomes estranged from his family and the best people and is thrown into environment which frequently brings his downfall.

So, my brethren and my sisters of the Church, I charge you to go forth among the youth of Zion and give to them the lofty conception that we have of the bodies which God in His kindness has given to us. Do all that lies within your power to keep them from polluting these sacred institutions. Exhort them to preserve their purity for efficient service in the kingdom of our Father, for

if they keep clean they will be fit instruments for the working out of the great purposes of our Lord. Let us devote our time and our energy, our preaching and our teaching, to the cleanliness of life that follows the keeping of the Word of Wisdom. I pray also that the message which comes from this great and remarkable statement given to us through the Prophet Joseph Smith may go beyond the confines of the Church into all corners of the earth, that men and women may understand that they are created in the image of God and have sacred obligation to preserve that image in all respects.

OBEDIENCE IS THE TEST OF DEVOTION

We love God. As we love Him we will do what He asks. He has asked us in the most kind and affectionate way to do these things for our own welfare, for our prosperity, for our spiritual growth and development, for the preparation we need to make to carry forward His great work, to preach the Gospel in its fulness and to give to mankind proper conceptions of life. Surely as we love Him we will follow His admonition and yield to His kindly persuasion. I pray that His Spirit may attend us in the keeping of our bodies pure and immaculate, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BOOK OF MORMON STUDIES*

Scientists tell us that our world is very old, as we count years. Indeed, we know that according to written history it has four or five thousand years to its credit. We know approximately the proportion and extent of land and water on the earth's surface during that period of time. According to earlier accepted history only a very small portion of the land was thought to have been occupied by man, and that upon the Eastern Continent. Yet when modern history began the Western Continent was found to be inhabited by many tribes of people living in differing stages of civilization. Evidence is plentiful to-day that the Western Hemisphere has been peopled during almost as long a period of time as has been the Eastern Continent. History gives no accounting of these peoples found in the so-called New World. But few attempts have been made to explain or account for their differing degrees of civilization as evidenced by their present living conditions, or the countless remains of earlier growth and development.

That these people were all God's children who received His care and guidance and were in possession of His holy Gospel and at times lived it in its purity is told in the very wonderful record called the Book of Mormon.

*This article is for use in the course of study for the Relief Societies on the first lesson night in January.

The Stick of Joseph—The Book of Mormon is a record of struggles for righteousness and lapses into wickedness for many centuries of the people who lived on the Western Hemisphere, now called North and South America. The Prophet Ezekiel foretells in a most interesting manner the coming forth of the "stick of Joseph"—clearly the Book of Mormon—which shall be united with that of Judah—the Bible—to the "confounding of false doctrines" and "to the establishing of peace" and "bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days and also the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord." Read and study in this connection Ezekiel 37 : 16-23, and 2 Nephi, chapter 3. Through the coming forth of the Book of Mormon this prophecy has been literally fulfilled.

Importance of the Book—It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the study of the Book of Mormon by the members of the Church. With this book must stand or fall the claims of the founders of the Church restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. For, if the book is not a message from God "to the Lamanites [American Indians] who are a remnant of the House of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile—Written by way of commandment and also by the spirit of prophecy and revelation" then is the whole contention of the Church false and of no avail.

Study will prove the book to be as stated—verily the word of God to His children of another branch of Israel. A full understanding of these facts should be possessed by every church member. For this reason the women of this Mission are urged to make its study a joyous undertaking for this year's course of lessons.

Does not Supersede the Bible—Important as may be the study of the Book of Mormon, no claim has ever been made by the Church that it supersedes the Bible as the word of God. The one complements and strengthens the other, as the "stick of Joseph" and the "stick of Judah" add strength to each other.

Our assertion is: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God." Righteous living is our aim; joyous acceptance of all divine truth is our purpose.

Future lessons will help us to become better acquainted with this unique and interesting book. The practice of its teachings will enrich our lives and ennoble all our undertakings.

QUESTIONS

1. Read carefully the title page of the Book of Mormon. Discuss its meaning.
2. Why do you enjoy reading the Book of Mormon?
3. Why can not the Book of Mormon take the place of the Bible?
4. Why should all church members understand and be able to defend this book?

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1928

EDITORIAL

GREETINGS FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

We accept with gratitude the opportunity which the advent of the Christmas season again affords to extend holiday greetings and congratulations to our fellow members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and to all others who desire peace on earth and good will toward men. The blessings which the Almighty has poured out upon us as a people since our last holiday message have been so abundant and so wonderful that our hearts are filled with thanksgiving which it is difficult to find words to express. Prosperity in a material sense has smiled upon us benignly, while spiritually there has been a sincerity and zeal in the performance of duty, which fills our hearts with joy. There never has been a time when the world had greater need of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and love of Him than to-day; there never has been a time when these emotions were more in evidence than is the case to-day among those who have taken upon them His name and covenanted to keep His commandments.

In this gratifying fact we find warrant for encouragement and reason for praise. As we celebrate at this season, in common with the Christian world everywhere, the usually accepted anniversary of His mortal birth, the Latter-day Saints aim to do more than render Him mere lip-service. They acknowledge Him as their Redeemer, the Captain of their salvation, the one and eternal King of kings. They adore Him as the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh, the Beloved Son who was willing to clothe Himself with a mortal tabernacle which should be offered as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of mankind. They worship Him as the resurrected Lord who made possible that they too should live again, and by obedience to His laws could have part with Him in everlasting bliss. They have taken upon them His name, recognizing that there is none other under heaven by which man can be saved. They testify of Him as a reality, and not as a myth or tradition. They accept His life, from His humble birth in Bethlehem to His cruel death at Calvary, as a pattern for human devotion and endeavour throughout all time. His career from the manger to the cross furnishes to them the supremest perfection of humility, devotion and service to which the human soul can aspire. In His resurrection from the grave they have complete assurance of the life to come.

Our mission is to testify of these things and of Him to each other and to all the world. In this latter duty the labours of the missionaries are characterized by commendable energy and they are being crowned with much success. Those who are proclaiming the message of salvation are selected with care, and are perhaps better qualified than at any time heretofore; with the result that the Gospel is being preached in power and is finding hearers in fields hitherto closed. Thus is the world being warned and made ready for the approaching advent of the Prince of Peace. At home, too, the Saints in general are setting their houses in order and are seeking more closely to obey the Master's laws and commands. In the bringing of their tithes and offerings, in observance of the Word of Wisdom, in attendance at meetings, in exercise of the powers of the Priesthood, in keeping the Sabbath and safeguarding the youth of Zion—in these and all other obligations resting upon them as Saints of God, the people are manifesting a spirit of sincerity and progress extremely pleasing to those vested with the authority of leadership. On their part, these watchmen upon Zion's walls and towers are vigilant and conrageons as befits their calling and responsibility. For all these evidences of the spread and strength of true Christianity we have occasion at this anniversary season to express approval and gratitude.

In particular are we moved at this time to rejoice in the completion and dedication of another Temple to the Most High. The House of the Lord at Mesa, Arizona, is the seventh to be erected since the Saints came to the Rocky Mountains. Each new Temple forms an additional bond between the heavens and the earth, marking a new epoch in the mighty work of vicarious redemption by the living for the dead—enabling the Saints to be indeed saviours npon Mount Zion. This thought seems especially appropriate at this season when the Christian world celebrates the birth of Him who made vicarious atonement for us all.

Each passing year brings us nearer the date of the Lord's coming in power and glory. True, the hour and the day when this great event is to take place, no man knoweth; but all the promised signs indicate that it is not far distant. Meanwhile the duty of the Saints is to watch and work and pray, being valiant for truth, and abounding in good works. Despite the uneasiness and discontent in many parts of the earth, the suspicions and jealousies among the nations, the mounting wave of lawlessness and crime, and the seeming spread of the elements of destruction even in our own beloved country—despite these symptoms denoting the apparent growth of the power of evil, those who continue to stand in holy places can discern through it all the handworking of the Almighty in consnmmation of His own purposes and in furtherance of His will. That which, viewed with the natural eye, is portentous and dreadful, causes no apprehension to those who

have faith that whatever happens, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

In conclusion, we give to the Latter-day Saints, and to all men so far as they are willing to listen, our good wishes, our testimony and our benediction. May your Christmas be blessed with cheer and happiness, your New Year with prosperity and peace! May your hearts be warmed and your souls exalted with the echo of that glorious song which was sung above the plains of Judea on that blessed night of the Saviour's birth more than nineteen hundred years ago, when a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, were heard by the shepherds, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

HEBER J. GRANT
ANTHONY W. IVINS
CHARLES W. NIBLEY

REED SMOOT—A WORLD FIGURE

ELDER REED SMOOT is one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Since his early life he has been active in the service of his Church and country. So outstanding has been his contribution to human welfare that his name is a household word in America and known and respected throughout the world. His life teaches that a man who clings to the Gospel and uses industriously his natural talents will be brought to a high realization of his powers.

Brother Smoot was born in Salt Lake City, January 10th, 1862. His parents, President Abraham O. Smoot and Sister Anna Kirstine Mouritsen, were Utah Pioneers and sturdy defenders of the Gospel. Both had sacrificed and suffered much from religious persecution. They transmitted to their children a noble heritage of high ideals and sincere devotion to the truth.

When eight years of age Brother Smoot was baptized; in 1877 he was ordained a Deacon; in 1879, a Priest; in 1880, an Elder; in 1884, a Seventy, and in 1895 was appointed a counselor in the presidency of the Utah Stake of Zion. On April 8th, 1900, he was ordained an Apostle. In these positions he has laboured with strength and rendered valuable service. In his life, church duties have always had the right of way.

Elder Smoot possesses a keen business mind. From his early manhood, after his graduation from the Brigham Young University, he has been associated successfully with manufacturing, mining and commercial enterprises. Amidst his numerous church and state activities he has found time to help direct many business undertakings.

Problems of government have always been interesting to Elder Smoot. He is a good citizen who believes that every man should

help secure the best possible management of public affairs. His vigorous association with the political movements of his day soon brought him into prominence, and in January, 1903, he was elected United States Senator from the State of Utah. The people of the State have kept him in this office continuously since then. Today he is one of the three oldest members in years of service in the Senate of the United States; and his senatorial labours have been of such marked quality that none of his colleagues is held in higher esteem. As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee he has a directing voice in the affairs of the world, and his influence in many concerns of the day is far reaching. It is conceded that his statesmanship is of the highest order.

When Senator Smoot was elected to the Senate, enemies of the Church undertook to prevent him from taking his seat, on the ground that he was a Latter-day Saint. The Senatorial Committee of Investigation continued its inquiry over several years. The activities of the Church as well as the private life of Senator Smoot were scrutinized under the glare of world-wide publicity. Few lives or institutions could have endured such examination. Upon the information obtained the Senate voted that Senator Smoot retain his seat. The evil designs of the enemies of the Church were changed into good, for through the "Smoot Case" nations became acquainted with the integrity and purity of the principles and practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Church always welcomes investigation by seekers after truth.

We have not the space to record the numerous achievements of Senator Reed Smoot. Vigorous in mind and of body, and rich in experience, we may expect from him many years of service to humanity. The *Star* extends its hearty congratulations to Senator Smoot upon the sixty-sixth anniversary of his birth.—J. A. W.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

An appeal was recently made in an English court by a man upon whom the death sentence had been passed for murder. Counsel for the defense argued that the defendant should not be held responsible, because he was intoxicated at the time of the act, and did not, therefore, realize what he was doing. The Lord Chief Justice pointed out that drink affords no excuse for crime, and the appeal was dismissed.

Physical drunkenness caused by the use of intoxicating liquors and resulting in benumbed brains, acts of fiendish violence, and degeneracy is one of the greatest evils that are undermining civilization. But of greater interest than the specific facts in this case are the principles involved, of which free agency and its companion, individual responsibility, are outstanding.

It may be accepted as a maxim of truth that great privileges and blessings bring with them responsibility of equal magnitude. Free agency and individual responsibility—these are closely related; they are inalienable rights of man; they are not peculiar to this earth nor did they originate with it—they are eternal principles embodied within the Gospel of Jesus Christ; they are gifts from the Eternal Father to His children, given for their growth and development.

It was the question of free agency, among other things, that precipitated the "war in heaven", of which we read in the Revelation of St. John:

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

And prevailed not; neither was there place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Of this great dissension we read in the Pearl of Great Price from the revealed writings of Moses:

Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down.

Reading further from the same source on this subject we find:

And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore they are agents unto themselves, and I have given unto you another law and commandment.

. . . .

Behold these thy brethren; they are the workmanship of mine own hands, and I give unto them knowledge, in the day I created them; and in the Garden of Eden, gave I unto man his agency.

Thus it appears that these rights are given of and zealously guarded by the Lord. Man is the child of God—literally, in the spirit. Man is an individual, separate and distinct from all other individuals; he is an agent unto himself with power and right to act for himself. Free agency, as the name is used in the terminology of the Church of Jesus Christ, is one of the choice gifts from heaven, for it makes possible the advancement of man through individual responsibility. It was operative in the Garden of Eden; Adam and Eve used their free agency and were strictly responsible for the exercise of it; mortality and expulsion from the Garden were two of the consequences.

In the affairs of this world men may shirk responsibility with impunity, to a limited extent, but not so in dealing with the Powers of heaven—every privilege and blessing brings with it responsibility and accountability, for which accurate reckoning will be made. The pitifully weak excuse that an individual has

placed himself or allowed himself to be in such condition as not to be aware of misdeeds, will not be accepted at the Bar of Justice. Free agency is given—it is a fact, a reality; it is inborn in man, and it brings with it responsibility that cannot be shirked.

Unnumbered hosts of men and women are drunken with the false traditions of their ancestors—spiritually drunken, and unable to recognize the truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Millions have beclouded minds and unsteady step, spiritually, because they have freely imbibed the doctrines and precepts of men—they can neither recognize nor appreciate the things of God. Millions have drunk deep of the iniquities of the world—they live in a drunken sleep, spiritual apathy, indifferent to the light of the Gospel.

When these come before the Great Judge, on that day which is terrible to contemplate for the guilty at heart, it will not be counted unto them as an excuse that others prepared and offered the mixture that made them insensible to gospel truths. Unto them it may well be said: You beg mercy and plead that you are not responsible for your misdeeds because you were drunken with the things of the world, and therefore not conscious of your acts. You, with your brothers, enjoyed free agency which brings with it individual responsibility. True, someone else may have prepared the wine of iniquity of which you have partaken, but you were agents unto yourselves; you drank; you are responsible for your condition of spiritual intoxication and must therefore pay the price for your misdeeds. Spiritual drunkenness affords no excuse for rejecting the things of the Lord; from this Court there is no appeal.

They who are wise will hereby be taught to accept blessings, privileges and responsibilities with gratitude and thanksgiving, and to keep themselves free from the spiritual intoxicants of the world.

RICHARD L. EVANS

COURSES OF STUDY FOR AUXILIARIES IN 1928

Relief Society: Two meeting nights each month will be devoted to a study of the Book of Mormon. The lessons to be followed will be published in the *Star*; the first of the series appears in this issue.

One meeting night each month will be used for the study of some selected article in the *Relief Society Magazine*, and another for "work and business." If desired sewing may be done on these two evenings.

Sunday Schools: The Primary Department will continue to use *Bible and Church History Stories.*

The Intermediate Department will study the Book of Mormon, following in general *The Story of the Book of Mormon*, by George

Reynolds. The First and Second Books of Nephi should be studied during January and February. Further suggestions will be made in the *Star* or in special bulletins.

The Theological Department will take up a study of the book, *What Jesus Taught*, by Osborne J. P. Widtsoe. Each lesson should cover one chapter in the book.

These texts will be procurable from Mission headquarters at an early date.

Mutual Improvement Association: The Associations should continue with the *Story of the Restoration.* When that course has been completed another will be suggested. The *Monthly Bulletins* will be published as heretofore, except for January.

A Farewell Message and Blessing: Just before sailing from Southampton on January 5th, Dr. James E. Talmage, former President of the European Mission, and his wife, Sister May Booth Talmage, former President of the Relief Society in that Mission, telegraphed the following message which was received at Durham House about two o'clock p.m. on the day of sailing:

Dr. Widtsoe, 295 Edge Lane, Liverpool.

A parting message of love, prayers and blessing to you all. May success and consequent happiness attend everyone in the European Mission.

THE TALMAGES

CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS

THE 1928 Spring Conferences of the Districts in the British Mission will be held on the following dates:

Liverpool	Sunday,	February 26, 1928
Hull	,,	March 4, ,,
Leeds	,,	,, 11, ,,
Manchester	,,	,, 18, ,,
Norwich	,,	,, 25, ,,
Birmingham	,,	April 1, ,,
Sheffield	,,	,, 8, ,,
London	,,	,, 15, ,,
Welsh	,,	,, 22, ,,
Ulster	,,	,, 29, ,,
Nottingham	,,	May 6, ,,
Free State	,,	,, 13, ,,
Bristol	,,	,, 20, ,,
Newcastle	,,	,, 27, ,,
Scottish	,,	June 3, ,,

District Presidents are requested to make early arrangements for the meetings, and to submit their proposed programs to Mis-

sion headquarters. All members of the respective Districts should be informed and public notice be given.

Every District President is to prepare a written report showing the work done, changes in the missionary corps, new fields opened, branch organizations, percentage of increase or decrease in tithes and offerings—in short, a comprehensive history of his District. This report is to be in form suitable for reading to the congregation, and a copy is to be in readiness for the Mission President or his representative at the Conference.

Provision should be made wherever possible for three Sunday meetings—morning, afternoon and evening. The morning meeting should be in the nature of a Sunday School Conference, and the Sacrament should there be administered. The two remaining sessions should be general conference gatherings; the Sacrament should not be administered at these times. Priesthood, Relief Society, Mutual Improvement Association or other special meetings may be held at the request of the Mission President or his representative.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Releases and Departures: Dr. James E. Talmage, of the Council of the Twelve, who has presided over the European Mission for more than three years, and his wife, Sister May Booth Talmage, who has directed the work of the Relief Societies during that time, sailed for their home in America aboard the steamship *President Roosevelt* from Southampton on January 5th.

The following missionaries have been honourably released and sailed for their homes in America aboard the *Majestic* on January 4th: From Southampton—Elder John R. Parker, who has laboured in the Birmingham and London Districts; Elder Cleston H. Rigby, who has laboured in the Birmingham and Manchester Districts. From Cherbourg—Elder Archibald J. Anderson, who has laboured in the Scottish and Welsh Districts; Elder Harold J. Butcher, who has laboured in the Bristol and Welsh Districts.

Doings in the Districts: *Norwich*—An afternoon entertainment was given for the children of the Lowestoft Branch on December 29th. Gifts were distributed to each one present. On Sunday, January 1st, the younger members of the Lowestoft Branch Sunday School were presented with books for good attendance records during the past year. Three children, Mary, Allen and Charlie Coleby, were given special prizes for a perfect record of attendance during 1927.

Nottingham—A social entertainment was held under the auspices of the Nottingham Branch Mutual Improvement Association

on Boxing Day. A New Year's Eve gathering was held under the direction of the Nottingham Branch Sunday School. Awarding prizes to children of the Sunday School who had the best attendance records was one feature of the evening.

EMANCIPATION

He railed at Fate; he fought; he swore;
He would be free; the chains he wore
He tried to break, but evermore
They held him tighter than before.

At length he cried: "Must I admit
That I am beaten? I submit.
I'm only wasting strength to try
Thy mighty mandates to defy;
I take, O Fate, what thou seest fit.
Give me my task; I'll tackle it
And do my best; but still I'll dream
Some day to do the thing I deem
Worth while."

He laughed and lifted up his load;
With glinting eyes he took the road
That Fate decreed. His toil became
A toy with which he played a game
To test his strength, while yet his soul
In visions sought the longed-for goal,
Forgot the weary, hated way,
Till Fate grew kind and smiled one day,
Unbound the fetters, set him free!
He found the path of destiny
Had led him onward till he teemed
With power to do the things he deemed
Worth while.

Lily M. Leaman

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN